

June 3, 2004

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

Since September 11, 2001, the demands for National Guard and Reserve forces to engage in close quarters combat in places like Iraq and Afghanistan or to protect our airports, borders and critical infrastructure has been constant and is continuing to grow daily. The Arizona National Guard continues to heed my call to provide aid during recent natural disasters in Arizona including forest fires and flash flooding. Under the present system of deployment, our National Guard troops are committed to our nation's military missions abroad for a period of 18 months.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Arizona National Guard, I am concerned that the men and women serving as members of our country's National Guard are not receiving the comparable consideration and long-term benefits for their military service as their active duty counterparts. Our National Guard troops, their families and their employers carry a significant burden to support our nation's defense. In many cases, these troops lose employment benefits such as the ability to accrue time towards their civilian pension plans during these extended deployments and they do not receive their retirement compensation from their military service until age 60. Their active duty counterparts receive their retirement benefits as soon as they retire. As our National Guard members continue to honorably serve in support of our nation's security missions, we, the citizens of Arizona, should make every effort to safeguard against any disparity between the state and the federal government. These citizen soldiers deserve our utmost respect and admiration.

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Because this is a national concern, I ask for your help and support by requesting that the United States Department of Defense initiate a prompt and thorough review of its long-term compensation and benefits structure as related to the National Guard and Reserve forces. In line with Secretary Rumsfeld's plans to transform the Department of Defense to meet the future needs of our national defense mission, the compensation structure needs to be reviewed and modified to match this increased reliance on these troops. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact me directly or my Policy Advisor on Military Affairs, Dion Flynn at 602-542-7007.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable Jon Kyl
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kyl:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

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Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable Rick Renzi
U. S. House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Renzi:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

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Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable John Shadegg
U. S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Congressman Shadegg:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

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Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable J.D. Hayworth
U. S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hayworth:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

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Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
U. S. House of Representatives
1440 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

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Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable Trent Franks
U. S. House of Representatives
1237 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Franks:

While in Washington D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, I attended a briefing by Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The focus of the briefing emphasized the changing role of the National Guard to meet the needs of our nation's growing national security missions. The previous mission of National Guard as a strategic reserve is no longer valid. Today, their mission is as an operational reserve where our country's military forces simply cannot go to war without them.

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Janet Napolitano
Governor

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The Honorable Ed Pastor
U. S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pastor:

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Janet Napolitano
Governor

June 3, 2004

The Honorable Jeff Flake
U. S. House of Representatives
424 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Flake:

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Janet Napolitano
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June 3, 2004

The Honorable Jim Kolbe
U. S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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